

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03212 130146Z

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8636

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3212

FROM: LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE: COMMITTEE I

SUMMARY: COMMITTEE I HAS RECESSED ITS WORKING GROUP UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 16, TO ALLOW THE GROUP OF 77 TIME TO COORDINATE ITS POSITION ON THE "SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION FOR THE DEEP SEABED". THE WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE UP ON MONDAY ARTICLE 22 AND THE RELATED ASPECTS OF ANNEX I. END SUMMARY

1. WITH THE SELECTION OF JAGOTA (INDIA) AND SONDAAL (NETHERLANDS) AS THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE C-1 WORKSHOP THE WORKSHOP MET ON AUGUST 10 TO DECIDE ITS PROGRAM. PERU REP (DESOTO) SPEAKING FOR THE GROUP OF 77, SAID THAT THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD FOCUS ON TWO QUESTIONS: THE MACHINERY OF THE AUTHORITY, SPECIFICALLY THE ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL; AND THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03212 130146Z

IN ALL OF ITS ASPECTS. THE GROUP OF 77 INSISTED

THAT THE WORKING GROUP FIRST CONSIDER THE ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL AND THAT MEETINGS OF THE WORKSHOP ALTERNATE WITH MEETINGS OF THE G 77 SO THAT THE GROUP OF 77 COULD COORDINATE ITS POSITION ON THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION.

2. US REP (RATINER), SPEAKING BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT WITH THE GROUP OF 5 FOR THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED STATES, SAID THAT THE WORK PROGRAM SUGGESTED BY THE GROUP OF 77 WAS NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO ENSURE FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND PROPOSED INSTEAD THAT THE WORKING GROUP DECIDED UPON SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED. HE SAID THAT THESE ISSUES COULD BE GROUPED UNDER THE TWO HEADINGS THAT PERU SUGGESTED BUT THE SPECIFIC SUB-ITEMS SHOULD BE ELABORATED. THE US SAID THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED UNDER THE HEADING SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION SHOULD INCLUDE: THE ENTERPRISE AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS US REP SUGGESTED THAT IF ARTICLE 22 WAS TO BE TAKEN UP, THEN THOSE PORTIONS OF ARTICLE 9 DEALING WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF DEEP SEA BED MINING SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING A CERTAIN "NEGOTIATING RELATIONSHIP". HE PROPOSED THAT SINCE THE GROUP OF 77 APPEARS TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION THAT THIS SUBJECT BE ADDRESSED FIRST. US REP INDICATED THAT US DEL IS NOT YET READY TO TAKE UP THE COUNCIL. THE US ALSO OBJECTED TO THE PROPOSAL BY PERU THAT THE TIME BE EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND GROUP OF 77 CONSULTATIONS AND EMPHASIZED THAT PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO INTER-GROUP RATHER THAN THE INTRA-GROUP NEGOTIATIONS. THE US WAS SUPPORTED BY THE UK SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EC, THE FRG, AND THE SOVIET UNION.

3. THE COMMITTEE RECESSED BRIEFLY TO ALLOW TIME FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED STATES AND THE GROUP OF 77 ON PROCEDURES. AFTER THE MEETING, CO-CHAIRMAN SONDAAL PROPOSED THAT THE WORKING GROUP MEET HALF-DAYS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03212 130146Z

DURING THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK TO CONSIDER THE ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR THE GROUP OF 77 TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POSITION ON THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION AND WOULD GIVE THE US TIME TO PREPARE ITS PROPOSAL ON COMPOSITION AND VOTING IN THE COUNCIL (ARTICLE 27). THIS PROPOSAL WAS IMMEDIATELY DISAVOWED BY THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN JAGOTA, AND WAS ALSO REJECTED BY THE GROUP MEETINGS FOR THE BALANCE

OF THE WEEK BE CANCELLED TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE GROUP OF 77 TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ITS POSITION CONCERNING THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION AND THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN THE WORKING GROUP BEGIN ON AUGUST 16. BRAZIL REP (THOMPSON-FLORES) SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL, AND THE US SAID IT COULD AGREE IF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED ON AUGUST 16 WERE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED. THE US AGAIN INSISTED THAT THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION - ARTICLE 22 AND THE RELATED ASPECTS OF ANNEX 1 - BE TAKEN UP AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS ON MONDAY. U.S. PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED BY MEXICAN REP (GONZALEZ) AND AFTER SOME GRUMBLING, APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE AGREED SCHEDULE MEANS THAT TWO WEEKS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE ELAPSED BEFORE COMMITTEE I BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, THE ARRANGEMENT AGREED UPON HAS POSITIVE ASPECTS. FIRST, WE HAVE FOCUSED INITIAL DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE ON WHICH THE GROUP OF 77 IS NOT DIVIDED. THIS MAY ADVANCE WHAT ALREADY APPEARS TO BE SERIOUS FRACTURES WITHIN THE GROUP. SECOND, WE HAVE AVOIDED, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, LINKING THE COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY ARTICLES TOGETHER, SOMETHING WHICH WOULD WEAKEN OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION. AND THIRD THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAVE HELD TOGETHER AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO THE GROUP OF 77 THAT IT CANNOT DICTATE TO THE COMMITTEE THE ORDER OF WORK OR THE SUBJECTS TO BE ADDRESSED AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO MOVE FORWARD. WE, OF COURSE, ARE STILL ON THE DEFENSIVE AND PROBABLY WILL BE FOR SOME TIME TO COME. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USUN N 03212 130146Z

EXTREMISTS WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77 ARE LOSING THEIR HOLD ON THE GROUP. IF SO, THERE REMAINS A HOPE THAT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED LATER IN THIS SESSION.
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